

**A PLASTIC NATURE AGREEABLE TO  
THE**

lectual nature, as the supreme architect and master-builder of the world, another plastic nature as the immediate workman and operator : which plastic nature hath been already described, in the words of Balbus, as a thing, which acts not fortuitously, but regularly, orderly, and artificially. And Laertius tells\* us, it -was defined by Zeno himself after this

**manner:** ctm

*Kara crTrcpjLtart/covc Xoyovc? aTroveXovaa re /ecu  
crvvsy^ovaa ra ef avtije cv <upicr/zfVOtc XP<sup>ovot?</sup>*

*Kal foiavra Spcuora*

a^ oia>v aTTf/cptfl^\* Nature is a habit moved from itself according to spermatic reasons or seminal principles, perfecting and containing those several things, which in determinate times are produced from it, and acting agreeably to that from which it was secreted .—

Lastly, as the latter Platonists and Peripatetics have unanimously followed their masters herein, whose vegetative soul also is no other than a plastic nature ; so the chemists and Paracel-sians insist much upon the same thing, and seem rather to have carried the notion on further, in the bodies of animals, where they call it by a new name of their own — the Archeus.

Moreover, we cannot but observe here, that, as amongst the ancients they were generally condemned for downright Atheists, who acknowledged no other principle besides body or matter, -necessarily and fortuitously moved, such as De-raocritus and the first Ionics; go even Anax-agoras himself, notwithstanding that he was a professed Theist, and plainly asserted mind to be a principle, yet, because he attributed too uauch to material necessity, admitting neither this